



ORGANISATION MONDIALE CONTRE LA TORTURE
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The International Secretariat of OMCT requests your URGENT intervention regarding the following situation in East Timor.

Brief description of the situation:

The International Secretariat has just been informed by the The East Timor Human Rights Centre (ETHRC), a member of the OMCT Network, of the summary execution, on June 16th, 1998, of Mr Herman Dasdores Soares, a 21-year old East Timorese man. According to the information received, he was shot dead in the village of Obrato, in the Manatuto District, East Timor, by a member of the Indonesian military.

It is believed that Mr Agus Medi, of the Indonesian Territorial Battalion 315, is responsible for the killing. However, the details of the killing remain unclear. It is believed that Mr Herman Soares was collecting wood with his cousin, Mr. Olandino Soares, when the Indonesian soldier shot Herman Soares in the leg and chest. The soldier has claimed that he believed they were stealing wood that belonged to the military. One media report claimed that Herman Soares was first shot in the leg and was later shot in the chest when he tried to escape in his car. Following the shooting, nearby Indonesian soldiers did not provide any assistance to Herman Soares who was heavily bleeding. According to the information received, some Indonesian soldiers wanted to shoot his cousin, Olandino Soares, but decided against it. Mr Herman Soares was then taken by his cousin to the Manatuto health care centre but they did not have the necessary equipment and personnel to treat him. It was then decided to transfer him to the Dili hospital. He died of excessive bleeding on the way to the hospital.

According to the information received, the Indonesian military has acknowledged that unnecessary force was used and made a public apology. Colonel Mujiono, Deputy Chief of the East Timor Military Command, said: "Our people were at fault. There was no reason for shots to be fired" (South China Morning Post, 19 June 1998). Colonel Mudjino also stated that one officer has been arrested for the killing of Mr. Herman Soares and that he ordered a thorough investigation into this event.

The alleged perpetrator of the killing, Mr Agus Medi, was arrested and it is believed that he will stand trial on June 25th.

Actions requested:

- i. ensure a thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of Mr Herman Soares, verify whether Mr. Agus Medi is the guilty person, if so, bring him to trial and apply the penal, civil and administrative sanctions as provided by law;
- ii. provide adequate reparation including compensation for the family of Mr. Herman Soares;
- iii. in general, ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with national laws and international standards.

Addresses:

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CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE Maj. Gen. (Pol.) Banurusman Atmosumitro, Kapolri, Markas Besar Kepolisian RI, Jl. Trunojoyo 13, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia.

Telegrams : National Police Chief, Jakarta, Indonesia

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA(includes East Timor)

General. Adam Damiri, Pangdam IX/Udayana, Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. Telegram : Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.

SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Lopa, Sekretaris Jenderal, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (Komnas HAM), Jl Latuharhary No.4B,Menteng Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia.

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Kindly inform us of any action undertaken quoting the code of this appeal in your reply.